

The weather we are having is splendid! It is invigorating for us to get outside in the sun, feel the fresh breeze, relax in the cool shade, drink a cold beverage, and even float in the blue water. Like the good weather all around us... we are blessed, enveloped, swimming in God's mercy, his compassion or pity!

Seminarian Scheele, as you begin your office as Vicar Scheele, you will be all about God's mercy! You will live in it! Receiving it and sharing it, like a sunny day. As you and your family experience so much change: a new location, different congregations members, changing of schooling, and new friends, you know how much you need God's unchanging mercy. You will receive it! You will live in it. Like a glorious summer day!

As a congregation, you too, are all about God's mercy! You have in the past, to this day and in the future will bask in the mercy of our Savior.

Jesus says: "**Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.**" God want us... living in the Savior's mercy! *First we see our own sin: our unmerciful beams in our eyes and our sinful blindness! Second, we live, and are enveloped in the splendid Savior's Mercy, and third, Christ's mercy flows like a river through us to others! This is living in the Savior's mercy!*

- I. We hate our drought of mercy or compassion, our pity for others. We sinfully judge and condemn, do not forgive nor give as the holy commandments of God demand.
 - A. There is good judging we are commanded to do in mercy and even in this good judging where we also fail and sin.
 1. There is the good judging of what is truth and error based on God's word. This is godly judging.
 2. There is good judging such as those who are unequal are in their station in life, or their vocation. Those in god given offices are enforce laws such as parents to children or government to citizens. This is good judging.
 - B. Like stormy weather Jesus condemns sinful judging and condemning of others. Jesus say: **Do not judge, ...Do not condemn,....**
 1. It is a daily dreary downpour of sinful judging when we withhold mercy from our equals—such as judging and condemning of motives of others actions— putting a bad construction on what they do. *We should fear and love God, so that we do not ... slander our neighbor, but excuse him, speak well of him, and put the best construction on everything.* We can often put the worst consecution on what others say and do.
 2. The most destructive storms of sinful judging are when we make a false judgment on another that is *not* from God's Word. We can do this in two ways:
 - a) ... being legalistic, calling something a sin that is not in God's Word a sin,
 - b) ...or liberalism, when God says something is a sin but we say it is not. This is sinful judging of others. It is the blind leading the blind. It is having a beam in our own eyes trying to get a peice of dust out of someone else's eye. It is hypocrisy!

- II. Thankfully, Jesus gives us His refreshing mercy. **“Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.”**
- A. ...**your Father is merciful!** Only the one true God, the Triune God, is the God of pure mercy in a complete sense: He is merciful with his pure grace to you and I, the sinner: ... **while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us!**
 - B. ...**your Father is merciful!** He has taken all our beams, all our mountains of sin and said, **“I forgive you all your sins.”** What a joyful fact! You are holy by mercy of your divine Father, through his eternal Son!
 - C. Your merciful, Triune God, shows His warm compassion with providing a holy substitute to take your place under the law. Jesus. He kept the law for you. He kept the 8th commandment for you: *Jesus fears and loves God perfectly, so that he not lie, betray or slander his neighbor, but excused him, spoke well of him, and put the best construction on everything!* That is pure mercy and compassion for us all!
 - D. On top of that God places all of your destructive sins on the body, soul and conscience of Son of God and then Jesus suffered for them all and died for them.
 1. Your beams lifted off your chest by he who hung from the beams of the cross.
 2. Your oceans of sin are drained away as his own blood drained from his holy veins. **O Israel, hope in the Lord; For with the Lord there is mercy, And with Him is abundant redemption.**
 - E. Jesus says: **...you will not be judged. ...you will not be condemned.** Why? You are not judged as sinners but declared holy! You are not condemned to hell be welcomed into heaven!
 - F. As Jesus says: **A good measure pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be poured into your lap.** Look at the bounty of all that is good placed on your lap, in your possession by faith.
 1.yes, this includes all we need to support this body and life
 2. ...and also the full Easter decree at the empty tomb: *“You are declared righteous in my sight. You are a saint by my mercy through my Son!”*
- III. **“Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.”** We now are to be Christians living in the loving warm mercy and giving mercy like a cool breeze to others suffering in a stifling desert.
- A. Living in the Savior's mercy, you now lead the blind with God's Word to that same refreshing living water of the mercy of God!
 - B. Living in the Savior's mercy, you now forgive your own loved ones.
 - C. Living in the Savior's mercy, you now forgive your enemies and give to them....compassion or mercy...like your own heavenly Father!
 1. Unbelievers will be merciful to their own group, their friends, even thieves in a gang will forgive always hoping to receive in kind.
 2. Only a true Christian, one who has faith in this merciful God can and will now grow in living this new life....just like your heavenly Father—having compassion even on those who hate us.
 - D. Look at what good weather of love Jesus mercy does through you....You seek to... **loosen the chains of wickedness, ... tear apart the ropes of a yoke, ... release the**

oppressed so they go free, ...you share your bread with the hungry... your light will break forth like dawn, and your healing will spring up quickly. Your righteousness will go out ahead of you, and the Glory of the Lord will follow you.

Jesus says: **“Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.”**

As a servant of Christ, soon to be officially Vicar Scheele, living with your family in your Savior's mercy, just as we all do but also now, serving in your office of the Word of God, shining that mercy in your ministry.

As members of this congregation, you to also live in the refreshing mercy of Christ...soaking it up and sending it forth. *This is living in the Savior's mercy!* Amen.